

Subject: RE: >Woodside<

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From: "e.puxon" <e.puxon@ntlworld.com>

Organization: eep

To: julian.steed@mill-reeve.com

Julian Steed
Mill & Reeve
3-7 Redwell Street
Norwich

Without Predjudice

2 November 2002

>RE: WOODSIDE

Dear Mr Steed,

By means of introduce, having been in practice yourself in Norwich, you may have known my father, Mr F.E.M.Puxon, senior partner at Thomas Smith & Puxon, and possibly my step-mother Mrs Margaret Puxon, barrister.

My interest in Woodside arises not from any professional aspect but rather a personal wish to see progress in the provision, both private and local authority, in an adequate number of such caravan parks for Romanies and other Travellers.

I naturally welcome as a piece of good news the agreement for a short temporary stay on the Injunction in respect of Mr Codona and his family. I understand there is to be a hearing on the application itself in the High Court on Wednesday.

As to the intended carrying out of the Injunction on Monday (4 November), there are of course only a small number of families, outside of the front portion of Woodside (Plots 1 to 3) and those of Mr Codona (subject of a fresh and radically different planning application) still on the site. Many have left.

These last families have registered as homeless and have applied to be accommodated in a manner appropriate to their life-style, that is to say by being offered pitches on another caravan site, or on a piece of land acceptable to them as a temporary measure.

It would seem to me that their forced removal from Woodside at this time will only cause further problems for all parties concerned. It is expected that the provision of a land site, rather than bricks and mortar, is an issue that will also be tested in court as early as this coming week.

In addition, the destruction of Woodside appears in present circumstances (with a hearing of these issues only days away) to be regrettable, again from the point of view of all parties. It is

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conceivable that Mid Bedfordshire District Council could be required to re-instate the site.

However, that is not the main purpose of this letter. My purpose is to say that Mr Suresh Glover, of the National Civil Rights Movement (which works closely with the Trans-European Roma Federation) will have a team of Monitors present on Monday to keep a watching brief on the proceedings of the operation.

In particular these Monitors will be taking notes and making a film and video record of the operation, from the point of view of damages and injuries which could be caused to individuals and their property; and of possible violations of human rights as defined under the Human Rights.

A copy of their report will be going to Lord Lester of Herne, QC, Legal Advisory Board, European Roma Rights Centre and to Liberty. Their report will be available for the High Court hearing and could have a bearing on the conduct of any such future operations (including any that might involve Mr Codona and members of his family which, of course, I hope will never have to happen.

The Monitors, unfamiliar with Woodside, are as it were in my charge. They will be identifiable by a lapel badge and names available. I will make myself known to yourself and other representatives and agents on Monday morning, so that we can perhaps clarify some points.

Yours sincerely,
Grattan Puxon
General Secretary
Trans-European Roma Federation